



from left: Roxana Beyranvand, Jill Pardini, Garima Bhatt, Shomari Taylor, Campbell McLean, Mayor Rawlings-Blake, Chris Merriam, Phil Garboden, Amanda Gonzalez, Cristina Duncan Evans, Jason Fair, Daniela Martinez

BALTIMORE CITY MAYORAL FELLOWSHIP

Speaker Series: Rachel Garbow Monroe, President, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc,

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc is a familiar name on buildings across Baltimore, Md.; Israel and the former Soviet Union. Known throughout the world for their philanthropic work on behalf of seniors and the poor, it is among the largest private foundations in the country. Foundation president, Rachel Garbow Monroe joined the fellows last week for lunch at City Hall fresh from the grant announcement for a \$10 million Holocaust survivor emergency assistance fund. The foundation's mission is based on the credo that the mark of a civilized society is the way it treats its elderly. Her advice to the Fellows was simply, "work hard, be nice and exceed expectations." Educated at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Business, she now heads a foundation that, even amidst a recession, is worth over \$2 billion and manages to give over \$100 million annually for direct services to the poor. This high level of work is completed with relatively few employees as Ms. Monroe believes you find people who can do their job well, so you won't have to hire two people to do that same job. Recreation and Parks' Mayoral Fellow, Jason Fair, was inspired by Ms. Monroe's dedication to the personal mission of Harry Weinberg.

"Somehow, even with all of today's pressures to expand organizations, her organization remains humbly committed to a few specific causes, and she manages the considerable fund with a staff of only 26!," said Fair. "It's good to know that societal change doesn't necessarily take a behemoth institution—that focus and prudence still work."

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Mayoral Fellows and City Law Clerks pose with Rachel Monroe.

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Ms. Monroe provided insight into not only how the foundation makes decisions but how it runs efficiently. To ensure the foundation's funds go to direct services, they carefully screen organizations seeking grants. They are wary of programs with many administrative costs and want to ensure that grants go to services and not the salaries of board members.

"It struck me that the Weinberg Foundation is so careful about having a moral mission and funding direct services, not administrative overhead. And, I can't help but notice their impact," said Campbell McLean. "I work out at the Weinberg YMCA and my mom had surgery in Hopkins' Weinberg Center – there's no doubting what they do for our city."

The foundation also sponsors several of its own projects. The Israel Mission Alumni Scholars Program seeks to bring Marylanders who have demonstrated leadership to Israel. While there, participants visit religious and historical sites and meet with major community figures. The goal is for participants to form their own understanding of the complex realities of the Middle East. Another program, the Weinberg Fellows, seeks to enhance the leadership and management skills of leaders in the non-profit sector.

Participants receive training in non-profit management best practices and connect with a rich network of resources to help their organizations better serve their targeted groups. It is clear from Ms. Monroe's dedication and high expectations that under her direction the Weinberg Foundation will continue to be a powerful advocate for the poor and elderly in Baltimore.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is a funder of the Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship Program.

A Cleaner Greener Artscape

How do you get 300,000

people to recycle? On Friday, the fellows volunteered to see for themselves. Artscape is the largest free outdoor arts festival in the United States.

Over 150 artists, fashion designers, and craftspeople from Baltimore and around

the country come to Mt. Royal and Cathedral to showcase their work. Artscape features visual art exhibits, on and off-site, a full schedule of performing arts including dance, opera, theater, fashion, film, experimental music and performances by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. There are also family events such as hands-on projects, demonstrations, competitions, children's entertainers and multiple street theater locations. Music artists perform on three outdoor stages. This year's line-up included artists such as Musiq Soulchild, Gov't Mule, and Wale. Not only are there great artists, but there is also great food. One can find everything from Greek gyros, to southern barbecue, to Maryland crab cakes.

The fellows volunteered by monitoring recycling stations, handing out recycling buttons, and

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Roxana Beyranvand, in aviators, enjoys the shade and mobility of a Artscape golf cart.



Mayoral Fellow Profile: Cristina Duncan-Evans

Cristina chose to be a Baltimore City Mayoral Fellow this summer because she wanted an opportunity to see education from a policy perspective. For the last four years, Cristina has been a Baltimore City Public School (BCPS) teacher. Her time in the classroom has opened her eyes to the negative effects policy can have on students in the classroom. “I’ve become acutely aware how missteps in policy can have unintended consequences and how skillful policy making can revolutionize and energize a school.”

Cristina brings her knowledge from the classroom to Baltimore City Public School’s Office of New Initiatives. This department facilitates the establishment of non-traditional schools such as charter, contract, transformation and turnaround schools. Frederick Douglass High School is being reorganized over the next two years. BCPS is looking for an operator outside of the school to manage the transition into two new academies. Cristina has been working on preparing for a public School Board meeting focused specifically on charter schools.

“At its core, BCPS and the Office of New Initiatives is trying to make sure that each student in Baltimore City has multiple quality educational options. For too long, we have had too few truly great schools. By diversifying the BCPS portfolio by adding charter, transformation and turnaround schools, we can give students great schools that recognize each student has different needs.”

Cristina was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Woodbridge, VA . She received her BA from Dartmouth College and her MA in Teaching at Johns Hopkins University. In college she was a member of the rugby team, a drug and alcohol peer advisor and took several leadership roles in her sorority. During her senior year she held internships at the Hood Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Having attended both public and private schools, Cristina was familiar with the achievement gap and in 2006 she was accepted as a Teach For America Baltimore Corps Member. She joined the movement partly because of her interest in education reform but also because she was aware of Teach For America’s reputation for being a well-run organization that matched the discipline of the private sector with a public welfare focus.

Cristina brings this passion and dedication from her Teach For America experience to Baltimore City Public Schools this summer. “The two Teach For America principles that have the biggest impact on my life as an educator are the value of disciplined thought and continuous reflection and improvement.”



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enlightening patrons of the benefits and joys of recycling their trash. After their shifts, the fellows were treated to a delicious soul food dinner for all the volunteers and got to enjoy the festival for themselves. The extreme heat didn't stop Baltimore from showing up. Chris Merriam noted the change in Baltimore that occurs around Artscape. "People complain about traffic getting congested, but that's actually one of the best parts about it – for once, our streets are temporarily reclaimed for PEOPLE."

With over 350,000 attendees, Artscape is without a doubt a people's event showcasing the best Baltimore has to offer. Roxana Beyranvand, whose fellowship is in the Baltimore Office for Promotion of the Arts, played a significant role in the preparation leading up to Artscape. During the event, she managed the Charm City Stage by providing hospitality to performers, ensuring that they had everything they needed, and ensuring that they arrived and performed on time. "I took pride in being a part of this event because as an artist myself, I strongly believe that Baltimore has so much to offer the cultural art community," she said. Next year Artscape will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary, and if it is anything like this year, one can expect another fun filled cultural event that absolutely anyone can enjoy.



Amanda Gonzalez suggests the second compost bin from the left as particularly accommodating for your funnel cake.

TEACHFORAMERICA

Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship and Teach For America

This summer the Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship is comprised of five current and former Teach For America Corps Members. The Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship (BCMF) looks to select college seniors and graduates across the country to work on projects that focus on a myriad of public policy issues and challenges. Teach For America initially brought Campbell McLean (BCPS), Cristina Duncan-Evans (BCPS), Garima Bhatt (Parking Authority) and Amanda Gonzalez (Department of Finance) to Baltimore in an effort to close the growing achievement gap in this country. However, their experiences throughout the summer will impact their effectiveness in the classroom and will also affect the work they will do in future endeavors should they choose to leave the classroom.

"There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my scholars and how I can impact their lives outside the classroom. I think about the stories I will tell them when we go back to school this fall—about how much smarter I got because I worked hard. I'm motivated by the belief that the work I'm doing now can positively impact my boys and enhance their life outcomes," explains Amanda Gonzalez, a current Teach For America Corps Member.

Gonzalez grew up in New Jersey and completed her BA in Florida before coming to Baltimore. The work Gonzalez is doing this summer in the Department of Finance aligns with her prior experience in policy work and the policy work outside of the classroom she would like to continue in the future.

Shomari Taylor was born in Baltimore but grew up in Detroit. Taylor received his BA at Yale and completed his two-year Teach For America commitment in New York City before returning to Baltimore for law school. Shomari was interested in seeing "the inner-workings of the City and the City Government." Taylor has been placed in the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice this summer before he finishes his final year of law school at University of Maryland in the fall. After his experiences this summer, Taylor is passionate about working and living in Baltimore City.

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Where are they now? Q & A with a BCMF alumna!

Baltimore City Mayoral Fellows use the experience they gain working for city agencies throughout their fellowship to guide the future work they do in public service and social and policy issues. BCMF Alumni reflect on their fellowship experience and share words of wisdom each week for current fellows.

Why did you choose to participate in the fellowship? It was a rare opportunity to sink your teeth into the urban policy challenges faced by an old industrial city.

How did the BCMF help shape your life or career trajectory? I was enthusiastic, I was committed to following-up on work assignments and opportunities, and I had an open mind. The BCMF rerouted my career trajectory. Instead of working for a non-governmental organization overseas after graduate school, I dedicated myself to the urban policy challenges in the Baltimore region.

What was the most important lesson you learned from your experiences as a Mayoral Fellow? The City has systemic challenges to overcome and local government does not have sufficient resources to overcome those challenges on its own.

Do you have any advice for current or future Mayoral Fellows? Ask lots of questions. Learn about other offices, agencies and departments, not just the one you've been tasked with helping. Get as much exposure to the City bureaucracy as you can. Get to every event you're invited to and ask if you could attend events that you're interested in (but haven't been invited to). If you need to get a hold of a city government employee and they don't reply to your initial contact, go and visit their workstation and introduce yourself.

How have you contributed to Baltimore City since your fellowship? I moved to the City and bought a home in Mount Washington. I pay City property taxes. I also worked for three non-profit organizations dedicated to community/economic development and affordable housing in Baltimore city. My wife just gave birth to our first child (a daughter) and she will attend city public schools.

Do you have a vision for Baltimore City? The answer to turning Baltimore around isn't necessarily to grow the middle-class population. Look at the assets you have (public parks, green space, the waterfront, existing transit lines, proximity to D.C., a strong culture of public service, etc.) and build on those strengths. City government will need to be more entrepreneurial if it is going to attract the 21st Century industries needed to provide stable, well-paying jobs to the City's existing population.

Do you have any other additional comments? The Mayoral Fellowship was my ticket to the job I have now and the future opportunities that may sprout out of my current position. Take full advantage of the 10 weeks to learn how City government works and what the challenges are to bringing stability back to Baltimore.



Brian Greenan

2004 Mayoral Fellow
Baltimore Homeless Services

Fellowship Project:

Analysis of the City Center
Homeless Population; Fundraising &
Marketing Campaign

Degrees/Year Awarded:

M.A., 2005

Current Employer/Occupation:

Maryland Department of
Transportation; Coordinator,
Transit-Oriented Development



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Cristina Duncan-Evans and Campbell McLean both grew up in Washington, D.C. Duncan-Evans headed to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire before completing her Teach For America two year commitment in Baltimore. McLean completed his BA at Tulane University in New Orleans before he moved to Baltimore and completed his two-year commitment. While Teach For America may have brought both Duncan-Evans and McLean to Baltimore, it was their passion for education reform that kept them in the classroom. Their participation in the fellowship this summer can be attributed to the strong commitment they have to their students. This commitment is so strong that they are constantly finding ways outside of the classroom, such as BCMF to impact education in the city.

BCMF is a natural draw from Teach For America recruits. Both programs share a passion for social and policy issues explored both in and outside of the classroom. These are individuals that understand that importance of perseverance and dedication when it comes to public service. Their experiences this summer have exposed them to many issues for which they have a lot of passion. These fellows combine their experiences from the classroom with the experience they are gaining throughout the fellowship and are determined to be agents of social and policy change throughout Baltimore City in future endeavors.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23rd 2010

Oriole's Game in the Mayor's Suite

July 28th 2010

Government and the Media: Andrew Green, Editorial Page Editor, the Baltimore Sun; Jayne Miller, Chief Investigative Reporter, WBAL-TV, Channel 11; Larry Young, Talk Show Host, WOLB

